

SHARING THEIR TALENTS



Thanks to the efforts of Morningside College students and faculty, more than 2,400 area students and teachers enjoyed the theatre department's spring children's play, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, at Klinger-Neal Theatre.

Morningside College students reach out to the community in many different ways.

Morningside College students are taking it upon themselves to use their talents to serve others in their communities.

That's certainly true of junior **Beth Watson**, who has, as an added benefit, probably overcome her fear of public speaking—if she ever had any. This outgoing basketball player from Elk Horn, Iowa, had four speaking engagements this semester alone. She uses her status as a member of the college's national champion women's basketball team to "spread my faith." And she loves it.



Beth Watson

"My passion is my faith," she said. "I want to be able to pass on that same love to others."

In January, she talked to students at Sioux City's West High School about her faith and gave them advice on preparing for college. Not long after, she spoke at a northwest Iowa gathering of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) at the Sioux City Convention Center. There, she was the opening speaker for Ron Brown, FCA director for the state of Nebraska and former assistant coach for the University of Nebraska.

She was the keynote speaker for Generation Genesis, a conference held in April at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and sponsored by the Elk Horn Lutheran League. Youth from all over the region attended the annual conference. A month later she was the featured speaker at the annual athletic awards banquet for the Sgt. Bluff-Luton Community School District in Iowa.

Watson doesn't confine herself to public speaking. She arranges community service projects for the women's basketball team and conducts Bible studies on campus. She and another student, junior **Arynn Rasmussen** of Manilla, Iowa, worked together this past year to establish a chapter of FCA on campus.

Morningside students often work together as they serve others.

Three members of the Morningside chapter of the Acacia Fraternity just completed a semester-long project at Covington Elementary in South Sioux City, Neb.

Juniors **Steve Deppe** of Prole, Iowa, **Bryan Dowd** of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and **Kyle Mallicoat** of Ogden, Iowa, volunteered at the elementary school once a week to coach fifth graders who were participating in the school district's Book Club Competition. According to Peg Foxhoven, librarian and media specialist at Covington, the purpose of the competition was to strengthen reading skills and promote literacy. The three juniors would review the assigned books with the elementary students and conduct mini quiz bowls so that the students could practice for the competition that was held at the end of April. The three helped out that day, too.

Fraternity members also regularly help out with blood drives that the Siouxland Blood Bank has on campus. They publicize the drives and sign up Morningside students, or they may simply fold the T-shirts that the blood bank gives to repeat donors.

For Morningside students engaged in community service, it's all about giving to others, in whatever way they can. Take junior **Amy Rahfeldt** of Norfolk, Neb. In February, she donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces to children with long-term medical conditions. She told *The Collegian Reporter*, "I did it because most children in adolescent years are self-conscious already, and to have long-term medical hair loss can make it worse. I want to give something to make them feel better about themselves."

Sophomore **Monica Rusk**, who is seeking a bachelor's of science degree in nursing, also wants to give of herself—by helping communities to treat persons afflicted with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) better. She has been an activist in HIV education and prevention since she was 15 years old, both in Sioux City and on the national level. In honor of National Women's History Month in March, she was recognized by *Choice! Magazine*, the national publication of Planned Parenthood, for her efforts to correct the widespread misinformation about the disease through advocating for comprehensive sex education.

One by one, Morningside College students are sowing seeds of faith, hope, and tolerance, often in a very personal way, and always emphasizing the importance of giving of self.